

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

In the Office Action, claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,334,699 to *Patzelt*.

Claims 2-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Patzelt* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,148,503 to *Shiratori*.

Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Patzelt* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,753,057 to *Gardner*.

Claims 7 and 12-17 have been indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant proposes canceling claims 1-4, and amending claims 5-11. Accordingly, claims 5-17 are pending for further consideration.

All Claims are Allowable

In the Office Action, claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,334,699 to *Patzelt*. Claims 2-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Patzelt* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,148,503 to *Shiratori*. Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Patzelt* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,753,057 to *Gardner*. Claims 7 and 12-17 have been indicated as including allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-6 for the following reasons.

Specifically, although Applicant does not agree with the merits of the outstanding rejection, in the interest of expediting prosecution of this application, Applicant proposes rewriting original dependent claim 7, which has been indicated as including allowable subject matter, in independent format to include the limitation of each of the claims from which it originally depended.

Based upon these amendments and the indications of allowability, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 be withdrawn, and allowance of claims 7-17.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Applicant also requests the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

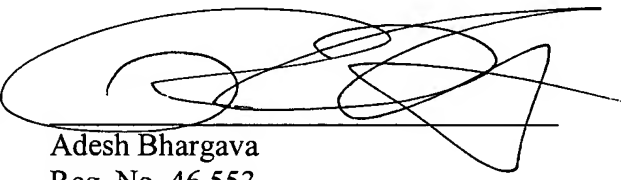
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 04-2223. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC

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By:


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